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CIA/RR CB 60-1

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8 January 1980

CURRENT SUPPORT BRIEF

USSR CLAIMS HIGHER GLASS PRODUCTION THAN US

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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USSR CLAIMS HIGHER GLASS PRODUCTION THAN US

Moscow radio on 9 December stated that the USSR has overtaken the US in the production of glass. 1/

This statement is true only if it refers to 1958 and to window glass alone rather than the category "flat glass" (window, and all types of plate).

Although in 1958 window glass production in the USSR was considerably higher than in the US, total flat glass production in the USSR was slightly lower than in the US. In the first nine months of 1959 however, US flat glass production increased by 40 percent over the same period of 1958, while Soviet production increased by only two percent.

In the first nine months of 1959, the US produced 105 million square meters of window glass and 54 million of plate glass or a total of 159 million. The USSR produced 100 million square meters of window glass and an estimated five million of plate glass or a total of 105 million square meters. Thus, Soviet production was only two-thirds of US production during the period.

In addition, plate glass, which is ground and highly polished, is roughly five times more costly than window glass, which is rolled. Thus, the value of US production is proportionally higher because of the much greater share of plate in total US glass production.

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(Title)

5 January 1960

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This was prepared at OGI request but when presented was considered too innocuous for publication.

We're inclined to think it's worth publishing only because it's a good illustration of how far the Soviet statisticians are willing to go in claiming progress in "catching up"

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